

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus which is connected with an information communication apparatus, comprising:

5 first input means for entering information on an addressee of fee billing from said information communication apparatus;

second input means for entering an image;

10 addition means for adding said information on the addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; and

output means for outputting said added image.

15 2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second output means for outputting information based on the output of said outputted image to said information communication apparatus.

20 3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information on the addressee of fee billing includes information for specifying a company issuing a credit card, and information for specifying a user of said credit card.

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4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information on the addressee of

fee billing includes information for specifying a bank issuing a debit card, and information for specifying a user of said debit card.

5 5. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said first input means further enters
information for enabling activation of said image
processing apparatus from said information
communication apparatus, and said second input means
10 starts the entry of said image after the entry of
information for enabling activation of said image
processing apparatus.

15 6. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said information based on the output
of image includes at least one of the information on
the sheet size, color mode and black-and-white mode.

20 7. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising discrimination means for
discriminating whether said image is a specified image,
and control means for controlling the addition by said
addition means based on the result of discrimination by
said discrimination means.

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8. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said addition means adds information

specific to the apparatus.

9. An information communication apparatus which
is connected with an image processing apparatus and
5 capable of communicating with an external server,
comprising:

first input means for entering information on an
addressee of fee billing and a password;

10 first output means for outputting said information
on the addressee of fee billing and said password to
said external server;

second output means for outputting, to said image
processing apparatus, said information on the address
of fee billing according to a result of identification
15 on said information on the addressee of fee billing and
on said password in said external server;

second input means for entering information based
on the output of image from said image processing
apparatus; and

20 third output means for outputting information
based on the output of said image to said external
server.

10. An information processing apparatus according
25 to claim 9, wherein said information on the addressee
of fee billing includes information for specifying a
company issuing a credit card, and information for

specifying a user of said credit card.

11. An information processing apparatus according
to claim 9, wherein said information on the addressee
5 of fee billing includes information for specifying a
bank issuing a debit card, and information for
specifying a user of said debit card.

12. An information processing apparatus according
10 to claim 9, wherein said second output means further
outputs information for enabling activation of said
image processing apparatus.

13. An image processing system composed of an
15 information communication apparatus capable of
communicating with an external server and an image
processing apparatus, wherein:

 said image processing apparatus includes:
 first input means for entering information on an
20 addressee of fee billing from said information
communication apparatus;

 second input means for entering an image;
 addition means for adding said information on the
addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner not
25 easily recognizable to human eyes; and

 first output means for outputting said added
image; and

said information communication apparatus includes:
 third input means for entering information on the
 addressee of fee billing and a password;
 third output means for outputting said information
5 on the addressee of fee billing and said password to
 said external server;
 fourth output means for outputting, to said image
 processing apparatus, said information on the addressee
 of fee billing according to the result of
10 identification on said information on the addressee of
 fee billing and on said password in said external
 server;
 fourth input means for entering information based
 on the output of image from said image processing
15 apparatus; and
 fifth output means for outputting information
 based on the output of said image to said external
 server.

20 14. An image processing method in an image
 processing apparatus connected with an information
 communication apparatus, the method comprising:
 a first input step of entering information on the
 addressee of fee billing from said information
25 communication apparatus;
 a second input step of entering an image;
 an addition step of adding said information on the

addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; and

an output step of outputting said added image.

5 15. An information communication method in an information communication apparatus connected with an image processing apparatus and capable of communicating with an external server, the method comprising:

- a first input step of entering information on an addressee of fee billing and a password;
- a first output step of outputting said information on the addressee of fee billing and said password to said external server;
- a second output step of outputting, to said image processing apparatus, said information on the addressee of fee billing according to the result of identification on said information on the addressee of fee billing and on said password in said external server;
- 20 a second input step of entering information based on the output of image from said image processing apparatus; and
- 25 a third output step of outputting information based on the output of said image to said external server.

16. A computer readable storage medium storing

program codes in an image processing apparatus connected with an information communication apparatus, the medium comprising:

- 5 a first input code for entering information on the
addressee of fee billing from said information
communication apparatus;
- a second input code for entering an image;
- an addition code for adding said information on
the addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner
10 not easily recognizable to human eyes; and
 an output code for outputting said added image.

17. A computer readable storage medium storing
program codes in an information communication apparatus
15 connected with an image processing apparatus and
capable of communicating with an external server, the
medium comprising:

- 20 a first input code for entering information on an
addressee of fee billing and a password;
- a first output code for outputting said
information on the addressee of fee billing and said
password to said external server;
- a second output code for outputting, to said image
processing apparatus, said information on the addressee
25 of fee billing according to the result of
identification on said information on the addressee of
fee billing and on said password in said external

server;

a second input code for entering information based on the output of image from said image processing apparatus; and

5 a third output code for outputting information based on the output of said image to said external server.

18. An image processing apparatus in which a
10 server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, comprising:

15 a card reader for reading a card medium in which recorded is personal identification information for identifying a person requesting the image processing;
conversion means for converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader,
20 into personal identification image data;

image generation means for generating output image data to be outputted, from said personal identification image data converted by said conversion means and said user requested image data requested by the user for
25 image processing; and

control means for limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification

information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

5 19. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said request for image processing is
a request for copying.

10 20. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of
reading different card media.

15 21. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card medium is an automobile
driving license.

20 22. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card medium is a prepaid card
issued under a condition of inscription of
predetermined personal information.

25 23. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said conversion means converts said
personal identification information read by said card
reader into invisible or scarcely visible personal
identification image data.

24. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said image generation means generates
output image data to be outputted, by superposing said
personal identification image data converted by said
conversion means with said user requested image data
requested for image processing.

25. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of
reading a character on the card medium.

26. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of
reading a numeral on the card medium.

27. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of
reading a pattern on the card medium.

28. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of
reading a registration number recorded on a magnetic
card medium through a magnetic head.

29. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 18, further comprising first informing means
adapted, in case said control means compares said

personal identification information read by said card reader with said memorized image output limited person information and identifies lack of coincidence therebetween, to inform the server apparatus through a predetermined communication medium, of improper person information indicating an improper person for the image request.

30. An image processing apparatus according to
10 claim 18, further comprising second informing means adapted, in case said control means compares said personal identification information read by said card reader with said memorized image output limited person information and identifies lack of coincidence therebetween, to inform the manager terminal apparatus through a predetermined communication medium, of improper person alarm information indicating an improper person for the image request.

20 31. A managing method for an image processing apparatus which is connected to a card reader for reading a card medium recording personal identification information for identifying a person requesting image processing, in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment

charged for a predetermined image processing, the method comprising:

a conversion step of converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader,
5 into personal identification image data;

an image generation step of generating output image data to be outputted, from said personal identification image data converted by said conversion step and said user requested image data requested by
10 the user for image processing; and

a control step of limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image
15 output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

32. A computer readable storage medium for an image processing apparatus which is connected to a card reader for reading a card medium recording personal identification information for identifying a person requesting image processing, in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, the medium comprising:
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a code for converting said personal identification

information, read by said card reader, into personal identification image data;

a code for generating output image data to be outputted, from said converted personal identification 5 image data and user requested image data requested by the user for image processing; and

a code for limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification information read by said card reader and image output 10 limited person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

33. An image processing apparatus comprising:

15 input means for entering an image;
input means for entering predetermined information to be embedded in said image;

inquiry means for inquiring to the exterior whether said predetermined information is effective;
and

20 embedding means for embedding said predetermined information into said image in case said inquiry means identifies that said predetermined information is effective.

25 34. An image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said exterior is a server computer.

35. An image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said inquiry means inquires through a communication channel whether said predetermined information is effective.

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36. An image processing method comprising:
an input step of entering an image;
an input step of entering predetermined
information to be embedded in said image;

10 an inquiry step of inquiring to the exterior
whether said predetermined information is effective;
and

an embedding step of embedding said predetermined information into said image in case said inquiry step identifies that said predetermined information is effective.

37. A computer readable storage medium comprising:

20 an input code for entering an image;
 a code for entering predetermined information to
be embedded in said image;
 a code for inquiring to the exterior whether said
predetermined information is effective; and
25 a code for embedding said predetermined
information into said image in case said inquiry
identifies that said predetermined information is
effective.